



THE

## KNIGHT

FIRST ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Well, here we are--our first anniversary! One year ago the first issue of The Knight appeared, and since then Lithuanian numismatics hasn't been the same. In fact, numismatics hasn't been the same, either!

Because of our group of over 100 dedicated members, the history, knowledge, and interest of Lithuania and its money is finally making a mark on the collecting community. As This year's ANA "National Coin Week" theme was studying man's roots, so we have been studying our roots and sharing it with the numismatic world.

The L.N.A. came into being as a result of a series of letters which appeared in Letters to the Editor in World Coin News in early 1978.

As we remind you of our goals/purposes, included is an evaluation of some of the successes in the past year, and goals for the future.

By the way, this is a "catch up" issue for us, with more news about the L.N.A. and its members, letters, etc. You'll also recognize that we've reduced our page size but added an additional page to compensate. This will make it easier to file TK better, as many of you requested.

The goals of the L.N.A. are as follows:

- 1) To bring together collectors of Lithuanian money, whether coins, currency, ancient or modern, in a common organization (also tokens, medals, etc).
- 2) To provide an avenue to share numismatic knowledge with one another.
- 3) To inform members and educate them in detailed information heretofore unavailable in the English language, especially in the field of numismatics.
- 4) To advance the knowledge of the history of Lithuania and the Baltic region, as it relates to the field of numismatics.

With those goals in mind, here are some of the accomplishments we feel have been made:

1. The monumental translation of Jonas Karys' great work, Independent Lithuanian Money by Val Matelis of Coral Gables, FL., and the serialization of that book in a page/notebook form in TK. Val has done a remarkable and tedious job, and we are all indebted to him.
2. Lithuanian Coin Holders, via the Museum of Lithuanian culture in Chicago, and all the

Con't on page 2...

TRANSLATION MARATHON  
PROJECT STARTS

This year our main goal in the L.N.A. is to have translated a stack of articles from Lithuanian into the English language. To do this we are calling on the help of Lithuanian patriots, numismatists and friends to assist us in this project.

We are calling this the "Translation Marathon Project." Our goal: A translation into the English language in a fluent and accurate way a score of Lithuanian numismatic articles.

If we reach our goal, we will be able to present several new articles heretofore unavailable in the English language, plus new insights on Lithuanian history and its money.

If YOU can translate from Lithuanian into English, or belong to or know of a Lithuanian Club organization that has members who can, or know of someone who can and would volunteer, we encourage you to pick out and article below and see that it is translated for us. When that article is published, we will give proper credit where due, of course.

Below is our "first installment" list of articles that need to be translated into English. Most of them are by Jonas Karys in his "Numismatika" book of 1970. As you look down the list, choose one that would fit your idea of a length of article you would like to translate. Write us, and we will send you a copy of it. Include a second choice in case the first one has already been taken by someone else.

1) "Trigrašis" seven paragraph article from Karys' Medieval book about the 1565 3 grašiai with the Biblical inscription, placed on the coin in protest of Polonization of the coin standard.

2) "Prakalba" the prelude introduction to Karys Medieval book. 3 pages long, 12 paragraphs.

3) A 3 page section from the Ancient book about the 1706 coins minted in Gardinas, Lithuania's last medieval coins.

4) A real "juicy" letter from Karys to the Balzekas museum criticizing Dr. Račkus' "Cyclopedia" book. 7 pages, or 21 paragraphs.

5) An article on Victor D. Brenner, the designer of the U.S. Lincoln cent who was born in Lithuania. 11 pages, 31 paragraphs.

6) A short "corrections" article entitled "Atviras Laiškas Spaudai." 3 pages, or 10 paragraphs.

7) "Kauno Moneta Kalyklos" an article about the State Mint in Kaunas. 23 paragraphs, 8 pages.

8) An excerpt from the Ancient/Medieval book about the 10 gold ducats of Lithuania. 4 pages.

9) "Zygimanto Vazos Auksinės Lėkštelės", 10 pages, 21 paragraphs, footnotes. Concerns the gold coins of Sigismund Augustus's successor: Vasa.

Con't on page 2...



## 2. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Con't from page 1...

cooperation from Mr. Balzekas in supplying us with research material. Also the Museum's special 10 Lity tokens.

3. The L.N.A. meets in New York and Chicago. Relatedly, the first place award in World Coins category of the exhibit "Coins of the Republic of Lithuania," at the C.I.C.F. This same exhibit has just taken first place in World Coins and BEST OF SHOW at the Michigan State Numismatic Society show held in May in Lansing, Mi. Also, the currency exhibit "Currency of Klaipėda (Memel) received a first in the world currency category.

4. The awareness in the numismatic press of Lithuanian numismatics, and their cooperation in the form of news releases, pictures, articles, about the L.N.A.:

World Coin News. In addition to getting us started, the following articles appeared: March 29, 1979, an article on the "backwards Vytis;" May 1, 1979, article on the rūtaflower on the 2 Lity coin; also various news releases, etc about the L.N.A., including the report of the new 2 Litai 1938 lettered edge pattern.

Coin World, March 28, 1979 issue: an article about the Klaipėda/Memel currency; a big group picture of the L.N.A. members at the C.I.C.F. May 9, '79 issue, and of course the publishing of our "Lithuanian Trends".

The Numismatist. Article "Coins of the Republic of Lithuania," August, 1977 issue, and a report of the formation of the L.N.A. and also of the Museum tokens.

Other accomplishments:

5) Congratulations to Adomas Varnas, who celebrated his 100th birthday on January 1, 1979. Varnas received a very nice write up in World Coin News. He is the oldest living designer of banknotes in the world, and is a Lithuanian artist.

6) Lithuanian publications such as BRIDGES, the Balzekas Museum Review, Darbinikas, and others have all been a part in our obtaining new members.

7) The completion of the last volume of the English Encyclopedia Lituanica, which contains much numismatic material, i.e. Vytis, Žikaras, Vilnius, etc.

Our goals for this year:

1) translations. (see page 1 article)

2) Research material sent in. If you have some detailed knowledge about Lithuanian numismatics, SEND IT IN! We strive for completeness and perfection in detailed knowledge. We are currently trying to find out: a) the full names of signatures on the Ost-Marks and Ost-rubels, on the Memel currency, b) the "reasons for" not issuing the 1938 10 Lity banknote, c) the Scheinfeld 1946 "camp money" details, etc...

## 3) Feature issues:

a) Oct-Nov issue: Commemorating the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Poland and the reacquisition of Lithuania's capital city, Vilnius, to Lithuania. This all-Vilnius issue will feature several rare and very satirical medals of the famous medalist, Petras Rimša.

b) Lithuanian paper money TRENDS! A first in the field of Lithuanian numismatics, including all known combinations of PAVYDZYS patterns, uni-face specimens, etc with prices and letters/numbers assigned. Probably the December issue.

c) one on Victor David Brenner, to clear up the "Baranaukas" controversy for good.

So there you have it. As we head into our second year, we hope you will continue to support and promote the L.N.A. We have printed up new and highly illustrative leaflets for you to distribute at coin shows to sign up new members. Write for these, and enclose a cost donation.

A big thank you everyone who have enclosed a little something "extra" to help us overcome our budget deficit. If you haven't renewed, please do so right away.

*Frank Passic*

Frank Passic  
Editor, The Knight

*Robert J. Douchis*

Robert J. Douchis  
L.N.A. Director/Secretary

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## TRANSLATION MARATHON PROJECT, Con't from pg 1...

10) "Nuo Kapos Ir Gražio Iki Lito" 5 pages, 13 paragraphs. About kapos money, an ancient Lithuanian currency.

11) "Baigiamosios Autoriaus Pastabos," the ending pages of the Numismatika book. Short. 2 pages, 6 paragraphs.

12) Pinigai--Musų Kultūros Paminklas., by Jonas Z. Augustinai. 4 1/2 "big" pages, 39 paragraphs. A nice project for someone. Should be familiar with numismatics to do this.

O.K. members: there it is. Let's see if we can get these all taken care of soon. If the response is good enough and successful, we will be able to announce the second part of our project in a future issue of The Knight.

## BROTHERS?

From the "we thought they looked alike" dept...



Lithuania's "LIT-errand"  
Jonas Basanavičius



South Africa's Krueger-rand.



CURRENCY OF THE MONTH By Frank Passic

**MEMEL 1 MARK NOTGELD**

Memel (Klaipėda) 1 Mark Notgeld

Pick #2

Size: 88 X 59 mm.

Dated: February 22, 1922.

Origin: Parcus Brothers, Munich, Germany

Color: Obv: light brown. Rev: Brown, Blue, and green.

Watermark: a 3-dimensional chain

Signatures: (from lower left) Gabriel

Petisne, J. Kraus, B. Hennig, Dr. F.J.

Meijer.

With summer here we thought we'd show you a nice desert scene: from LITHUANIA! That's right! A little unknown face is that Lithuania can boast of the largest seashore sand dunes in the world, found on the "Courish Split." (Kuršių Nerija), that long and narrow isthmus bordering the Baltic Sea.

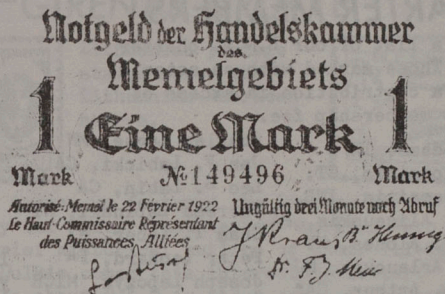
The seaport of Klaipėda was built by the invading Livonian Order during the reign of King Mindaugas in 1252 for the sole purpose of keeping Lithuania from having a seaport in which to receive precious goods. And that purpose was well kept, for Lithuania was unable to reclaim its territory for nearly 500 years, until 1923.

Known in German as "Memel," (the name taken from the Nemunas river), the city was built in Samogitia, or lowland territory, and throughout the centuries was occupied by many foreign powers. The fact that it was built in Lithuania (even pope Innocent declared that as such in the year 1253) remained implanted in the hearts of Lithuanian patriots, and was the constant cause of many border disputes.

After World War I, the Treaty of Versailles returned Klaipėda to Lithuania, but because of the German influence, the French were allowed to come in and "supervise" to prepare the return of the region back to Lithuania. They did little to do so, however, and instead relied heavily on the German administrative set-up. Lithuanians in the area sent for help and in 1923 staged an insurrection in which Klaipėda was regained for Lithuania.

Of interest is the 1922 "Notgeld", or Emergency money" issued by authorization of the French, and used briefly during the midst of the disastrous inflation of the German Mark.

OBVERSE: In German, the text translates, "Emergency Money of the Chamber of Commerce of the District of Memel. 1 ONE Mark 1. Worthless 3 Months after Recall." In the French language to the lower left appears: "Authorized by The High Commissioner, Memel, February 22, 1922, Representing the Power of the Allies." Of the signatures appearing on the note, the one in the lower left, Gabriel Petisne, should be noted. Petisne is the French High Commissioner who ignored the rights of Lithuanians, and as



a result, caused the insurrection. In the background is the Coat of Arms of Klaipėda, an outline of a castle fortified, and a small boat resting in the water below. The fortified castle symbol is related to Lithuania's symbol of freedom, the Columns. The Klaipėda coat-of-arms also appears on numerous Lithuanian banknotes and stamps.

REVERSE: A beautiful scene of the Courish Split, which is a long narrow strip of land along the coastline, 60 miles long, and just 3 or 4 miles wide. On this split lived wild elk, the largest wild animal in Europe. The split contains the largest seashore sandunes in the world. These dunes are nicknamed the "Lithuanian Sahara." The dunes, each of which has a name, such as "Old Viper," "Glider Pilots," etc., reach heights of over 65 meters. The former Prussian border before WWII bisects the Split in the middle. The higher dunes are found on the Lithuanian side. The westward wind pushes the dunes over to the east side of the Split, where they fall over into the Courish Lagoon, Lithuania's freshwater fishing basin. If you will take a look at the Encyclopedia Lituanica Vol. III (K-M) pg. 247, you will note that the picture of the Sand dunes is the exact one which appears on this note!

The designer/artist of these notes is unknown to us. Every Lithuanian collector should own a set of the Memel notes, as they contain colorful scenes of Lithuania, and history.

TRENDS: F: \$3.00 VF: \$4.00 XF: \$5.25. UNC: \$7.00



## 4. CHARTER MEMBERS

Below is a list of our L.N.A. charter members. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) made a contribution in excess of the basic membership fee.

Richard Adams, TX  
Joseph Adomaitis, CT.  
Edward Adomaitis, IND.  
Rev. P.J. Alisauskis, PA  
Vincent W. Alones, NY  
Peter J. Arlauckas, NJ  
William S. Arthur, CA\*  
Jonas Augustinius, IL  
Frank Bakitis, SC  
John Balchunis, VA\*  
Balsekas Museum of  
Lith. Culture, IL  
Albert Beatar, NY  
Dennis O. Bentley, PA  
Edward Bochniak, PA\*  
Merkki Borg, Finland  
Madeline Bretanus, MA  
Raymond Budd, OH\*  
Michael Byckoff, CA  
John Cherko, PA\*  
Delores Davis, N.J.  
George M. Daru, PA  
Edward Dawda, MICH  
Leonard DeLang, HI  
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A. Dilkus, Canada  
George Dillingham, NY  
Bruce Donahue, CO  
James Douchis, MA\*  
Robert Douchis, MD\*  
Victor Dulkis, NY  
J. G. Esler, Canada  
Leonard Galman, IL  
Cassy Garelis, MICH  
Craig Geiser, MICH  
John Glynn, England\*  
William Grasska, CA  
Kazys Grigas, CA\*  
Robert Gwodz, CA  
Kenneth L. Hallenbeck, CO  
Thomas Halpin, Jr. NY  
William Henderson, WA  
Don R. Hiltunen, MICH  
Theresa James, NJ  
A. Jarmas, NJ  
Reinhold Jordan, West  
Germany  
Warren JoM, OH  
Thomas C. Kamin, TX  
Henry Karolkiewicz, MA  
Jonas, K. Karys, CT  
Claus Kassel, NV\*  
Carl Kazakauskas, PA  
Bill Kizely, CA  
Alexander V. Kore, WI  
A. Kotkas, CA  
Herman Krajewski, CT\*

Charles LaRue, MN  
Jan F. Labicki, CA  
Leo S. Labin, CA  
Theresa Lapinski, NY  
Chas T. Leber, NY  
Peter Leonard, PA  
Joseph Lepczyk, MICH  
Thomas Levi, FL  
Lithuanian Philatelic  
Society, IL  
L. Macikunas, Canada\*  
Timothy Magila, NY  
Jeff Malakoff, NY  
Richard Margolis, NJ  
Boland Martick, MA\*  
E.F. Martin, NJ\*  
Elgy Masaitis, MA  
Frances Maslana, AZ  
V.L.G. Matelis, FL  
Vito A. Matulonis, NY  
C. Matuzas, NY  
Edward Mikutis, IL\*  
Missouri Numismatic So-  
ciety, MO  
Krzysztof M Munnich, MA  
John A. Muscalus, PA  
Robert Novak, CA\*  
James Z. Olson, IL  
Frank Passic, MICH\*  
Hascall C. Peirce, MI\*  
Ona Matazynskas Porter  
OK\*  
E.V. Pruncun, DEL.  
M. Ramanauskas, Canada  
Ginger Rapsus, IL  
E & Z Rawson, CA\*  
Wm. C. Rice, OH\*  
Tex Richardson, IL  
(deceased)  
H. Riekstins, IL  
Frank R. Samolis, DC  
Hannu Sarkinen, Finland  
Dick Schubert, CO  
Joseph Shapaka, WV  
Peter Shulin, PA  
Albert Snyder, PA\*  
Teodor Stachurski, Poland  
Jonas Stankunas, IN  
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Mel Steinberg, OH  
Karl Stephens, CA  
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Jackson Storm, NY  
A. Sudentas, MA  
Rachel Tedesco, MA  
K.L. Thieroff, TX  
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Ray Variakojis, OH  
William Velms, CT  
Paul Waichulaitis, WI  
Knud Wallenstierna,  
Finland  
James B. White, FL  
Charles Wolfe, OH  
Kazmier Wysocki, NJ  
Toyo Yamamoto, OR  
Joseph Yanulaitis, PA  
Kenton Young, NH  
Edward D. Zemaitis, N.Y.  
Victor Zilaitis, FL  
Karl Zuelke, MA\*  
Petras Petraitis, NY.

All those who joined with us this first year as listed above are our charter members. We thank all of you for your support and help. Membership cards for new members will commence with #123, with charter members, of course, being marked with "CHARTER MEMBER" instead of a number.

## JOGAILA MEDAL STRUCK

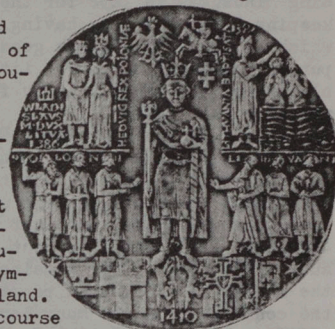
The Warsaw Mint in Poland has struck a medal honoring Poland's King Wladislaus II (1386-1434), who was Lithuania Grand Duke Jogaila. Designed by Crakow professor Witold Korski, they are part of a series of medals honoring Polish kings of the past.

Lithuanians should note that the theme of the coin centers around Jogaila marrying Poland's Queen Jadwyga. The marriage took place in 1386. According to tradition, it was at this time that Jogaila designed the double-barred cross, symbolizing Lith. & Poland.

In the center of course is Jogaila with the Polish eagle and Vytis at the top, a double cross is displayed under Vytis. To the left: on the obverse is Jogaila and Jadwyga holding hands, and a statement in Latin which states that Jogaila, grand duke of Lithuania is baptized by Jadwyga, Queen of Poland (this is according to the Polish point of view...)

What is stunning about this beautiful medal is the fact of the use of such nationalistic symbols. First, the Polish eagle has a crown, which was taken off by the communists. Second, the Columns of Gediminas, Lithuania's symbol of freedom and sovereignty appears boldly on the left, as does Vytis. Such symbols are forbidden in occupied Lithuania today. How this design was able to escape the communist censors is unknown.

At the bottom is the date 1410, which obviously refers to the date of the battle of Tannenberg, in which Lithuanian and Polish forces under the leadership of Vytautas the Great (known in Polish as Witold) defeated the Teutonic Knights. Jogaila (who in the famous painting by Matejko can be seen at the far right in the distance on a hill) played a large part in the planning of the battle.





## TRENDS ADDITIONS

The following changes should be made in our Lithuanian Trends (DEC issue).

1. Change Y-15e to 16a.
2. Add 16b to be the "Columns" reverse, and LETTERED EDGE.
3. Change mintage of Y-12 (1936 3 Lit) from 2,750,000 to 2,612,000 (see Karys, page 202).
4. Change mintage of Y-13 (1936 10 Lit) from 876,000 to 720,000. (see Karys, page 202.)

### FROM THE ARCHIVES....

For Sale: 50 million year old MOSQUITO imbedded and preserved in a small piece of clear amber, the oldest mummified insect in the World, from Palanga, Lithuania. \$6.00.

---ALPS August 1953 issue, pg. 27.

THE NUMISMATIST

## GOTHIC NUMISMATICS



is very interesting to German, Italian, Lithuanian, Scandinavian and Spanish numismatists. Every collector of ancient coins and every student of history should have the fascinating bilingual book.

### GUTHONES (THE GOTHS)

A treatise on the Gothic Ethnology, History of the Gothic Dominion in Italy and Spain, NUMISMATICS, Language and Proper Names. By Alexander M. Rackus, M. D.

The book has 432 pages, 75 illustrations (mostly coins), neatly bound. Price very reasonable, only \$3.00 per volume. Order direct from the Author.

**DR. A. M. RACKUS,**  
2130 W. 22d St., Chicago, Ill.

--Ad which appeared in the April, 1930 issue of The Numismatist.

In 1924, Lithuanians in Lithuania received 40,330 U.S. Money orders amounting to 9,340,946 lits. This doesn't include other money received through various banks and other agencies. --ALPS August, 1953 Pg 12.

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## DARIUS-GIRENAS UPDATE

5.



Lithuanian postage stamps honor the Lithuanian-American heroes.



In our last issue, we featured the Darius-Girėnas memorial medal issued by the Chicago Lithuanian-American Aero Club, Inc., and gave a brief historical outline of their ill-fated flight. From Vic Dulkis comes this interesting letter:

"Your article about D & G is about correct, except for the ending or crash. My cousin "Antanas" who was born in Lithuania in 1913, and came to America in 1938, tells it like it was:

After the so-called crash Lithuanian officials with German permission went to the site at Soldin, and the plane was a total wreck, mostly from crashing into trees. The bodies and pieces of plane were taken to Kaunas; the plane was put into a museum in Kaunas just as it was found at the crash site.

Bullet holes were noticable in certain parts of the plane, one of the trees also was dug up and taken to Kaunas to be set up just as it was at the actual site.

Lithuanian doctors examined the pilots at the site, noticing one of the pilots had a bad head wound: one of the doctors probing the wound removed a large caliber bullet from the pilot's skull; whereabouts of the bullet are unknown.

Antanas Smetona, President of Lithuania contacted then "chancellor" of Germany, Adolph Hitler, for an explanation: Hitler said he gave no orders to shoot down any planes.

The above story is what was printed in all Lithuanian newspapers, except the Catholic journals which tried to cover up the truth of the plane being shot down. I find that odd, since religion should not cover up the truth (my opinion).

Some theories and rumors as to the so-called "crash" heard on the streets of Lithuania at the time: 1) Hitler gave orders to shoot down the plane to prevent Lithuanians from getting attention and glory; 2) Pro-Lindberg people did not want the flight to succeed because D & G had a longer journey and more difficult conditions, their accomplishment would have been greater than Lindbergs; 3) Possibly they were shot down by a pro-Lindberg person or persons without Hitler's knowledge; 4) German troops were target practicing at Darius & Girėnas' expense, and 5) wealthy Germans hiring someone to shoot down the plane just before its goal, knowing the approximate flight pattern to prevent small nations such as Lithuania from getting so much glory.

The above story was also told in school to students by Lithuanian teachers, so my cousin Antanas and others tell me. My cousin also spent 2 days in Kaunas in 1938 waiting for Visa and Passport, etc., and had plenty of time to look the plane over. he says definitely he saw what appeared to be large caliber bullet holes in portions of the plane. In 1938 the "Lituania" was in a museum in Kaunas on Laisvės Alėja.

Perhaps someone in the area of Soldin (now Polish Mysliborz) would have seen the episode. But it has been 46 years now, and eye-witnesses would be hard to come by."

EDITORS NOTE: It is strange that Lithuanian research journals do not mention this, if it is true... Thank you Vic for that interesting story.



## 6. WANT-ADS

WANTED TO BUY: Lithuanian currency. Need the following notes according to Pick: 4, 5a & b, 6, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28. Also Li. medals, tokens, & medieval coins. Please send listing with notes, condition, and prices. George M. Daru, 756 E. Northhampton, Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania 18702

WANTED: The following Li. banknotes: #5, 6, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, and 28. Also "Ost-Mark" P-R-129 2 marks. K. Wysocki, 293 Hudson St., Hackensack, N.J. 07601

TRADE: I have several hundred Lithuanian stamps. Will trade for Lithuanian banknotes, and stamps of other countries. Will trade at catalog for notes and double catalog for stamps, or make offer. Peter Shulin, 645 Hayes Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

FOR SALE: It's time to sell some of my extras. Hope I have what you need.

1. Complete Set of Lithuanian circulation coins (14 coins)!! This is a "heritage" set for those of you who do not want to shell out a fortune for a collectors UNC set. This set comes complete with the plastic Capital holder, for easy showing. The coppers average F-VF, and the silver pieces VF-XF, some brilliant. \$165.00

2. 1925 Y-3 10 Centy Brilliant UNC! \$13.

3. 1925 Y-8 5 Litai VF+ toned. \$16.00

4. 1936 Y-12 5 Litai (Basanavičius obv.) Brilliant about UNC. \$15.00

5. Same as above, only XF \$13.00

6. Same, only VF. \$10.00 (this would make a good gift to your Lithuanian friend or relative)

7. 1/2 "Ost-Mark" (currency) (P-R127) VG 2.00

8. 1 "Ost-Rubel," 1916, G+ 1.00. (currnc)

9. 1916 Iron 3 Kopecks (Ost) UNC but darkened by oxidation. \$9.00.

10. Same as above, only VF+ \$6.00.

The above prices includes the postage. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St. Albion, Michigan 49224. I am working on a set of Lithuanian currency to exhibit (aren't we all...). While we are all after the rarer ones, perhaps you have a few of the more common ones (the 1922 various cent notes) in XF-UNC which you would be willing to sell. Write me to let me know what you have and its condition/price. I also am trying to assemble a nice (XF-UNC) set of the Ost-Rubels currency.

We are now accepting commercial dealer's ads. Write for info. and cost.

## LETTERS... DEAR EDITOR:

Read your article on Thaddeus Kosciuszko. I must educate some of my Polish friends, lets give credit where it is due. It appears that Thaddeus was a Lithuanian and proud of it. Enclosed is a donation for 50 copies.

---Vic Dulkis, Maryland, New York

Enclosed is a check for 50 copy reprints of the Kosciuszko article. Note: you should always include the author's name with such a controversial article.

---J. Yanulaitis, Philadelphia, Pa.

Editors note: The article on Koz. was a big success. It is now in it's 4th printing. If you would like to have some "fun," send a cost donation for a quantity and we'll send you some to pass out, lay out on "free" tables at coin shows, etc. You will be amazed at how fast these are picked up by individuals. The historical information about Koz. was taken directly from the two sources named in the article. The numismatic prelude was written by the editor of The Knight.

The article on Kosciuszko was a humdinger. Maybe there could be a follow up article on Pilsudski, since he also was a Lithuanian. Up to this time I did not collect Li. banknotes by series, so with the last article (about the 20 Litu series "D"), I went over all my duplicates and picked them out, and find I only have the B & C. It is difficult to get one of a kind, let alone collect the notes by series, but I am started.

-----Vince Alones, Floral Park, N.Y.

Enclosed is a check for \$10 to renew my membership in this fine organization...In corresponding with members of OUR organization, I can truthfully say, that everyone has exhibited a degree of cordiality that other areas of numismatics has lacked.

---George Daru, Wilkes Barre, Pa.

I have just finished reading my Coin World magazine and was very happy to see the picture of the Lithuanian Coin Holder. I am of Lithuanian descent and have never seen any Lithuanian coins. Please send me details...I would like the coin holder as a keepsake of my Lithuanian heritage. ---Regina K. Davis, Danbury, Conn.

I enjoy reading The Knight, and look forward to your issues to learn more about the country my parents were born in. I also pass on the information to my sons, brothers, and sisters. Looking forward to Vol. 2.

---Lt. Col. John W. Balchunis, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Please renew my subscription to the L.N.A. Hard to believe that 1 year has gone by. I am still not a student of Li. numismatics, but the more I read, the more interesting it becomes. And as that interest grows so does my desire to get into it.

---Paul Waichulaitis, Waupaca, Wisconsin.

Enclosed is a money order for my subscription to Vol. 2. As Lithuanian off-spring from both sides, I pride myself as being of a minority with a glamorous past that is still acceptable as history, but I despise the way Lithuanians are counted in as Poles or Russians.

---Peterouskus Šaulinskaucius (Peter Shulin)

Washington, Pennsylvania.



Beginning this issue, we are presenting selections translated into English from the German text of "Handbuch der Polnischen Numismatik" by Marion Gumowski, the noted Polish numismatist. Translation is done for us by Robert J. Douchis of Baltimore, Maryland. Selections translated are those which deal primarily or are related to Lithuanian medieval coins. The letters at the beginning of the paragraphs are those corresponding with those in the book. You will note that some letters are skipped. Page numbers refer to those in the book. While his work is a recognized numismatic reference, Gumowski does not treat early, prior to the union with Poland, (1569) Lithuanian numismatics with great accuracy. It should also be kept in mind that the original book was published from the author's notes. For this reason, the text may be considered a compilation of statements rather than a story format to which we are most accustomed.

P. 27. L. Wladislaw Jagello (1386-1434) [Lithuanian Grand Duke Jogaila, cousin of Vytautas] happily led the united Poles and Lithuanians, and has also left behind much coinage. They can be divided in three groups and that is the Polish, Ruthenian, and Lithuanian. The coinage in the first group, also called crown money, were struck only in Cracow, they themselves founded the chief mint, bestowed different mint lease-holders, those which were Cracow citizens or province folk. In first accession years they coined small denare with eagle and double crosses, later an abundance of scheren, at first worth 1/4 Bohemian groschen, after 1396 worth only 1/6 as much. Since they then at that time valued the groschen at 18 denare, these schere were equal dreier or Ternar and likewise accordingly named. In 1399 they began to strike the half-groschen, they soon put into circulation great numbers. They bear the royal eagle and the crown and under the [Pg. 28] crown were different marks in addition to letters, they identify the Cracow coins. From archive sources come, that in the years 1389-1440 no fewer than 34 mint masters and mint leaseholders were active here. In the years 1414-31 the Cracow mint stood slack, because complaints on account of the abundance of royal strikings were loud. Like the money their business was increasing, they coined merely copper half denare with eagle and crown on the die.

The second mint worked in Lemberg for the Ruthenian lands; they struck after the Cracow coin standard two kinds of coins and that is the Ruthenian schere MONETA RUSSIE and the Lemberger half groschen MONETA LEMBURGENSIS. Also these coins ceased to appear in 1414. It was the last coinage, they struck for east Galiz. The third group, Lithuanian, is also treated separately. Here were some in addition to the municipal coinage of this reign. It traded itself around the Posen and Fraustadt denare, those with two documents were brought into connection. The first document from 1404 contains a coinage privilege to the city of Fraustadt, the second from 1410 a privilege to the city of Posen. We know of the Fraustadt denare, not known to us however are the Posen denare of this period.

M. Lithuanian Coinage was first minted in 1387, when the Christian population and Jogaila took charge, the first coins in the were established. Coinage by rulers from the pagan era, i.e. Kęstutis, Algirdas, Gediminas, etc. are unknown or not until recent finds come to light today. They used the foreign coinage from Latvia or Prussia and estimated in rubles while figuring from small silver bars. The first native coin types in Lithuania were the small denare with the spear tip and pillars. Still later came half groschen which were worth 5 denares and were supplied with the Russian legend Pechat. The third type was the double denare with rider, they were discontinued after 1400. All were struck in Vilnius and carry the Russian legend, but not one king's name. Simultaneously with the Vilnius coinage came also other double denare which bear the letter K and indicate the Kaunas mint again likewise struck by King Jogaila. A different circumstance of the Kiev province coinage, comes from the Lithuanian Algirdas dynasty and the homage to the crown of Poland. Known are the Kiev coins of Vladimir (1393) and Romanas, which were sometimes supplied with the letters KI (Kiev), and bear the Russian legend and the symbol of the Tartar Golden Horde. This mint mark is found on a rare coin of Dimitri Korybut, a Lithuanian leader in Severian, before 1393. Remarkably, Vytautas the Great has personally not left any particular coin behind, although he nominated Jogaila for grand sovereign and aspired to the Lithuanian crown. We only know, that he set up some customs service on the borders, where he counterstamped foreign Tartar's, Genuesish, or Moscow coins.

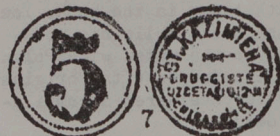
N. Vladislav III (1434-44) [Jogaila's son]. The Lithuanian mint was silent during the era of this reign.

P. 30. Q. Alexander (1501-1506) was the first king after a long period to plan a new and basic money reform. Also during his period the coinage in municipal Prussia became silent, but two other mints were active and that is in Cracow for the crown lands and those in Vilnius for Lithuania. The first production place came under director H. Slakers, a Cracow Burger, whose great silver-purveyors were Boner and Thurzo. It permitted also private persons, provided that they obtained authority for it from the king, to mint particularly silver coinage. [TO BE CONTINUED...]



## 8. CHICAGO LODGE TOKENS

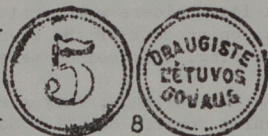
By the late Dr. A.M. Račkus. (Continued from Vol. I #5.)



No. 7. Obv: ST KAZIMIERA (top arch) / / DRUGGISTE/UZDETA 1912 M/CHICAGO, ILL. at the bottom,--all encircled by a fine dotted border. Mis-

spelled abbreviations stand for "SVENTO KAZIMIERO DRAUGYSTĖ UZDETA 1912 M. CHICAGO, ILL." Translation: "St. Casimir Society Established in the year of 1912, Chicago, Ill." Note: "DRUGGISTE" is an error for "DRAUGISTE." Reverse: Very large cypher "5" encircled by a dotted border. Aluminum disc 25mm. Note: This society was organized in the West Side of Chicago, March 4, 1912, and its main purpose was mutual assistance and importing books published by St. Casimir Society of Kaunas, Lithuania.

No. 8. Obv: DRAUGISTE/LĖTUVOS/GOJAUS within a beaded circle. Translation: "Society of the Gro-



ve of Lithuania." Rev: Large cypher 5 surrounded by a beaded border. Aluminum disc 25 mm. Undated. Nothing else is known to us about this quaint Lithuanian lodge.

No. 9. Obv: L.G.D.L.K. (top arch)/ALGIRDA/ / CHICAGO, ILL.--all encircled by a dotted border. Abbreviations stand for: "LIEB GVARBIJA DIDŽ-



-IOJO LIETUVOS KUNIGAIKŠČIO ALGIRDO, CHICAGO, ILL." Translation: "National Guard of Grand Duke of Lithuania Algirdas, Chicago, Ill.

Rev: GOOD FOR ONE DRINK around the edge; 5¢ in the center; all encircled by a beaded border. Aluminum planchet with ornate edge having 8 petals, 25x30-mm. No date. Note: It was a semi-military, patriotic and anti-Russian organization...

No. 10. ST. DOMININKS SOCIETY/ /CHICAGO/ /

, all enclosed in beaded circle. REV: GOOD FOR /5¢/DRINK encircled by a beaded border. Aluminum planchet, escalloped edge with 8 petals.

No date. Note: This society was organized in the "Bridgeport" district of Chicago on November 24th, 1910. The majority of the members were born in RASEINIAI District of Lithuania, whose dialect and customs differed from the rest of Lithuanians.

To be continued....



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The Lithuanian Numismatic Association  
P.O. Box 612  
Columbia, Maryland 21045.

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After the second World War, outside of Lithuania, there appeared a 10 Lit banknote, printed and dated as of February 16, 1938. On the obverse side appears the portrait of the President of the Republic, Antanas Smetona, and the proclamation of the independence of Lithuania.



Obverse, 1938 10 Litu  
Pick #28  
Serial letter: A. Known only as  
PAVYZDYS.  
(Photo reduced in size)

[179A.]

5 Litai  
Pick #26  
Obverse

[Serial letters: A,B,C,D.]

5 Litai reverse

[Specimens: a) printers seal, b) uniface with overprinted PAVYZDYS, plus perforated PAVYZDYS.]

5 Lits. Obverse at left: Vytautas the Great; below the portrait appear the dates "1430-1930," showing the 500th anniversary of the death of Vytautas. The round stamp in the center does not pertain to the banknote; it is a mark of Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. London, a symbol indicating a specimen. This symbol will appear on all banknotes prepared in England, since we photographed specimen examples. Across the entire banknote a band of about 20mm wide of loose pinkish blue thread was woven in. It was issued in Kaunas on June 24, 1929; placed into circulation January 2, 1930; it was signed by: V. Jurgutis, (Bank of Lithuania Comptroller); J. Paknys (his assistant), V. Statkus, (Director).

Reverse, center, "The Oath of Vytautas" (creation of artist J. Mateika). Legend has it, that after the Crusaders burned the castle of Kaunas, Vytautas sworn to avenge it severely. And he did avenge it severely at Tannenberg, destroying the regiments of the Crusader Order, its power and influence in the Baltic and Masurian regions (1410). The round white spot at left, below the drawing, is a hole cut into the specimen, required to pin it to the background. Such holes will appear in other drawings.

178.

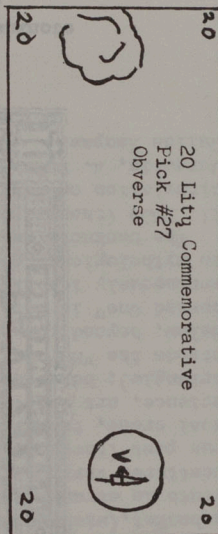
081

20 Lits.

Across the banknote, through the middle, a band about 20 mm. wide of loose pinkish blue thread was woven in.

On the obverse side--Vytautas the Great (with the date of his 500 year anniversary of death); in the center, Vytautas church (dating from the 14th-15th century) at the Kaunas steamship pier. Below the Vytautas portrait and above his heraldic symbol (in the right corner) were place symbols and numbers of the series. The banknote was issued at Kaunas,

[Serial letters: A, B, C, D. Those with serial letter D are scarce.]

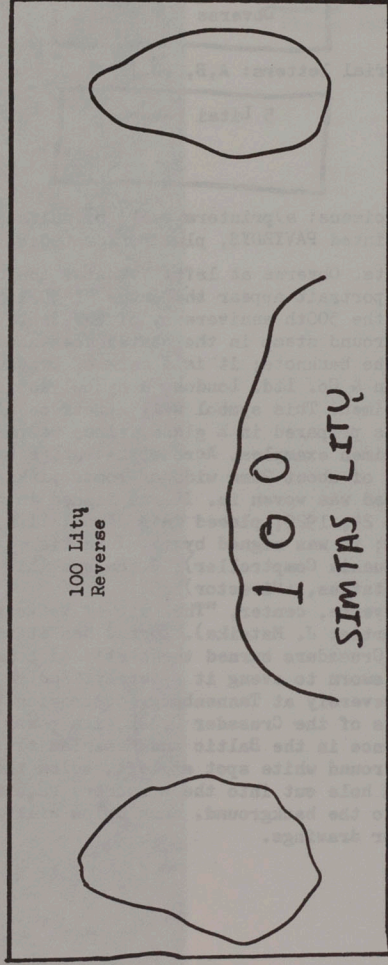


[Specimens: a) printers seal, b) overprinted PAVYZDYS, c) perforated PAVYZDYS]

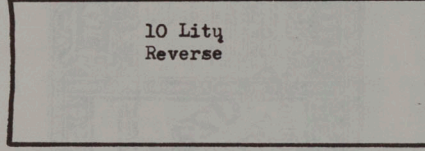


famous Lithuanian leader and statesman (1392-1430). In his time, Lithuania stretched from the Baltic (White) to the Black Seas; he governed Smolensk, and the lands of Podolov; he fought the tatars far, far beyond the Dnieper River...

Reverse, a Lithuanian girl with a wreath on her head and a neckless of amber around her throat.



[Serial letters: A,B,C,Č,D,E,F,G.]



10 Lits. Obverse, center is the Knight, below left; and right, were placed series symbols and numbers; in the bottom frame, in the middle "Columns of Gediminas (Poles of the Gate)." The banknote was issued in Kaunas October 24, 1927; and placed into circulation April 28, 1928. It was signed by: V. Jurgutis, J. Paknys, Julius Kaupas, P. Grajauskas, Z. Starkus (all three of the latter were directors).

Reverse, center is pictured a beautiful homestead of a Lithuanian farmer and a sowers tasks. (from the views of artist A. Žmuidzinavičius)

NOTE: This banknote was drawn by artist A. Žmuidzinavičius. Artist Adomas Galdikas is said to have drawn another 10 lit project, but no further news has reached us about its eventual fate. [\*]

[\*] [Karys is speaking of the rare and beautiful 1938 10 Litų commemorative, which surfaced after World War II. In his book Senovės Lietuvių Pinigai (1959), Karys speaks of this note in an appendix at the end of the book, which is to be included here between pages 179 and 180. Pages 179A and 179B therefore are taken from Pg. 394-5 of that book. For a more detailed description about the note, see the October 1955 issue of the Nordisk Numismatisk Unions MEDELSBLAD Pgs. 156-159 by A. Platbarzdīs entitled "Two Unknown Baltic Banknotes."

On the reverse the entire National (People's) Council. It appeared that the Bank of Lithuania had ordered these banknotes in England, where our other notes had been prepared; however, there is no evidence that these 10 Lit pieces had actually been issued into circulation, and had passed there.



Reverse, 1938 10 Litų banknote known only as specimens. (Photo reduced in size)

[179B.]



# B.COINS

## 1)First Issue--struck in England.

The minor paper lits were issued in a "poverty" environment, when there was no other means of operation. Since they were printed on cheap paper, they were very quickly deteriorated, were torn and became unwanted "little money." Everyone understood, that those paper bills must be changed into metal small change, and awaited the government's efforts in that respect with agonizing impatience. And finally, what sort of government is this, without its own metal coins?!!...

The appropriate officials of the state had from the very beginning held the matter of coinage to be important, but there was no way to implement the matter then. Even Rome wasn't built in a day. The first care was to create a strong currency, try it out in practice, and then later, when the currency demonstrates its healthy posture, to take on supplementary angles. After several years, the Lit, to everyone's satisfaction and jubilation, was not only accepted, but began to show signs of strength. Then came the time for coins, and so, in 1925, shining and jingling, they came into circulation to relieve their predecessors.

We had two fundamental coin statutes, which served as foundations for the striking and issuance of metal payment tokens. The first of these, adopted by the Senate on June 20, 1924, and published August 8th (and modified somewhat and amplified by the statute of March 3, 1925, published March 20)82 invested the National Treasury with the sole right to strike and place into circulation "metal money" of gold, silver, and copper-aluminum (article 1). The second Article of the statute provided for the principle of the free striking of gold coins in the Lithuanian monetary system. It then continued: "Each citizen has the right to supply gold to the Government Treasury to strike coins; for the striking of gold

82 The statute was published in the Government News #167, the amendment at #189.

1,000 Lit banknote.

On the obverse, at left, in the white oval, there is impressed a transparent bust of Vytautas the Great; below, after the signatures, the words "a Thousand Lits" in a combination of colors is shown. On both sides of the KNIGHT (above) are placed the series symbols and numerals.

On the reverse in the center, a young man and girl are seated; to the left in her hand is a bouquet of flowers, at left--some working tool (what kind, we were unsuccessful in determining); at their feet, a scythe, a rake, a plow, and a basket, (wickerwork basket) with fruit. The youth is strumming a harp and around him are scattered various symbols: freedom and a glorious past (three flags); war (a shield with a dual cross, two crossed swords and a club); science, art and trade (a book, a palette, a triangle); between the shoulders of the youths stands the "Mercurv Fasces"--a symbol of commerce. Below, beyond the book and palette, the "concerned One" is set, which foreign numismatists erroneously identify as a hobgoblin, a Lithuanian mythological "god of plenty."

The banknote was issued in Kaunas on December 11, 1924 (though printed in 1925); it went into circulation on February 23, 1926; signatures: V. Jurgutis, A. Prūsas, P. Grajauskas, J. Paknys and Julius Kaupas.

However, the 50 Lit coin must contain gold for 7.5231. That made up 90% of the entire weight of the coin, the remainder, 10% being the bonding metal, Cu--copper. Gold coins, which have lost more than 5/1000 of their weight, and that through normal wear in circulation, and "not by some illegal method" (Article 11), must be withdrawn by cashiers and turned in and restocked anew. Coins melting, when they become so worn that it is difficult to distinguish them (Article 12). With respect to altered or counterfeited coins, the Senate brought into the statute this kind of regulation: "The National Treasury, its branches and banks will not accept [illegally] altered or counterfeited coins." (Article 13). However, pleasant to relate, though these articles find their way into paragraphs of statutes, as a practical matter, they passed with a smile. We have been unable to learn that any of the National Treasury branches or banks at any time prepared instructions to strike warning symbols on any altered or counterfeited coins. These officers, as though in unison, behaved permissively and alike: they refused to accept damaged coins, and when they saw any altering--called in the police. This policy which has become a self-explanatory habit throughout the world, overcame the aforementioned statute with a 100% victory....

The first law permitted issuance into circulation of coins: copper-aluminum up to 2 Lits for each inhabitant; silver, up to 6 Lits for each inhabitant; gold coins--an unlimited amount (Article 8).

In disbursements, no one could be forced to take more than 50 Lits in silver coins; or more than 10 Lits in copper-aluminum. The State Treasury and its branches must accept coins in greater sums, but were required to exchange them for other species of payment currencies only then, when the copper-aluminum coins were less than 50 Lits, or the silver, 200 Lits (Article 10).



coins, a charge will be made to cover expenses for the striking of those coins, at the standard set by the Minister of Finance." The appearance (of all types) of struck coins, the number of types, the melting details, striking and other conditions will be done on the conditions set by the Finance Minister (Article 7). The allowances of weight and purity are set as follows (Article 6):

Gold Coins.....to 25/10,000; 2/1000 Large silver  
...to 7/1000; 5/1000 Silver 1 Lit coin to  
10/1000; 7/1000 Other types of coins (copper-aluminum) to 18/1000 weight and purity 3, 4, and 5 articles set the denomination of the coins, their material composition and size, namely: a) "Copper-aluminum moneys are struck:-- 1 cent coins-16mm. diameter, 1.6 gr. weight; 5 cents, 19mm, 2.1 gr.; 10 cents, 21 mm. 3.0 gr; 20 cents, 23 mm. 4.0 gr.; 50 cents, 25 mm. 5.0 gr.

b) "Silver moneys are struck:

- 1 Lit coins;;50% fineness silver, 2.7 g. weight, diameter thickness ratio 19:1 to 20:1
  - 2 Lit coins:-50% fineness silver, 5.4 g. weight, diameter thickness ratio 17:1 to 18:1;
  - 5 Lit coins:-50% fineness silver, 13.5 g. weight, diameter thickness ratio; 14:1 to 15:1 (Art. 4)
- c) "Gold coins are struck: in 50 Lit coins  
7.5231 grams of pure gold, 8.3592 grams weight, diameter thickness ratio: 20:1" (Article 5).

3) the amounts of banknotes that were in circulation\*

[CHART]

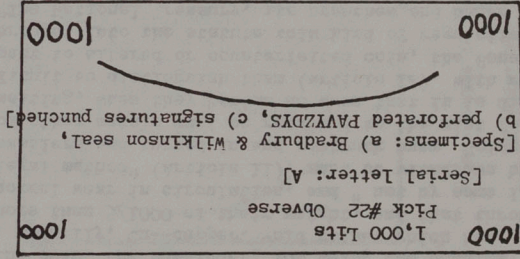
Year 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 5% 10% [etc....]

1 1922--Total 30,377,064.26 Lits. Closer date unavailable. The statistical bulletins began publishing these date only from 1923 onwards.

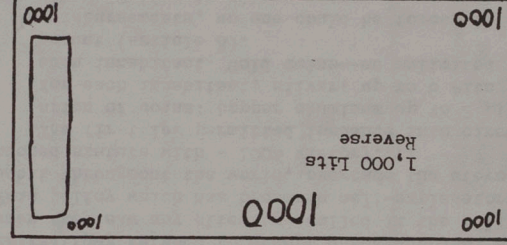
2 1923 [Etc....]

\*Coordinated with figures published by A. Klatbardzis (See his "The coins and the Paper Money of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania," page 168).

191\*



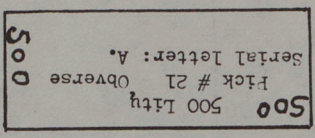
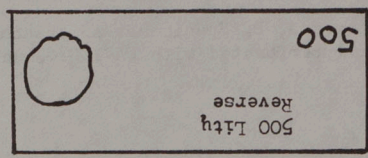
188.



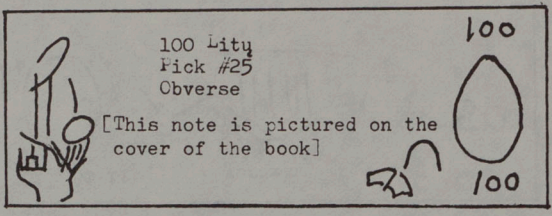
189\*



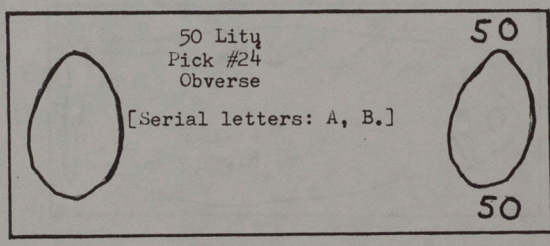
The banknote was issued in Kaunas, December 11, 1924 (though printed in 1925); it went into circulation on September 28, 1925; signatures: V. Jurgutis, A. Prusas (1922-26 the Assistant to the Comptroller; Julius Kaupas, P. Grajauskas, J. Paknys (directors)).



500 Lits.  
Obverse side, at left, in the white opening, there shines through "Gediminas Tower"; on the reverse, above the center, the coat of arms of Kaunas, Vilnius, and Klaipėda cities.  
[Specimens: a) Bradbury & Wilkinson seal, b) perforated with PAVYZDYS, c) signatures punched.]



100 Lits. The band of thread: the same as on the 20 Lit banknote. On the obverse: at left, a seated lady dressed in the national clothing of a girl from the Rokiškis county [in North-eastern Lithuania bordering Latvia]; on her lap she holds the "horn of plenty"; her right arm rests on a shield, upon which, below the "Towers of Gediminas" is placed the statement: "One Lit has 0.150462 grams of pure gold;" below to the left--symbols of agriculture and industry; to the right, art, science and trade symbols. In the center, a globe. Above, left and right, can be seen the bust of Grand Duke Kęstutis (1381-1382; [Child on obverse is holding the "staff of Mercury"]  
[Serial letters: A, B. Specimens: a) printers specimens, b) overprinted PAVYZDYS uniface with perforated PAVYZDYS.]

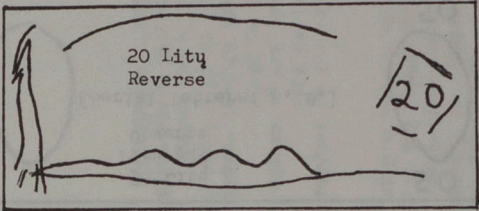


50 Lits. A band of threads--as in the 20 Lit banknote. On the obverse at left, the patriarch of reborn Lithuania, Dr. Jonas Basanavičius (1881-1927); at right, in the white oval, the bust of Grand Duke Gediminas can be seen in the watermark. In the center, the printer's stamp covers the signature of V. Jurgutis, and the "Pillars of Gediminas" below; On the reverse, in the center--two Lithuanian shrines in the old capital of Lithuania [Vilnius, Lithuania's capital, was under Polish occupation]: religions--the Cathedral; national--the hill of Gediminas with its ruined castle.  
[Specimens: a) printers seal, b) overprinted PAVYZDYS, and c) in a mistake, the note was inadvertently perforated in English, "CANCELLED" instead of "PAVYZDYS" (an interesting specimen to own!)]

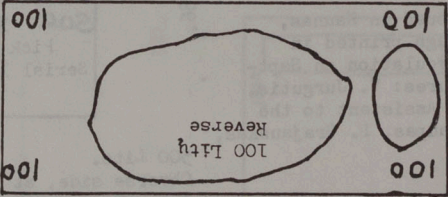
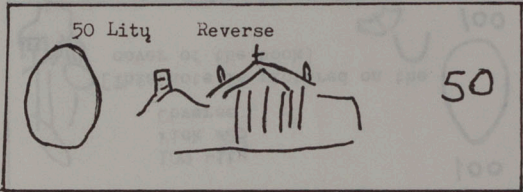


July 5, 1930--the year of Vytautas the Great; it was placed in circulation on May 15, 1931; the signatures of Vl. Stašinskas (The new Comptroller of the Bank of Lithuania from 1930); J. Paknys; J. Masiulis, Ig. Musteikis, and V. Statkus.

On the reverse, at left, the Statue of Liberty (during the era of independence it stood in the garden of the Museum of Vytautas the Great, in Kaunas, the sculpture of J. Zikaras); in the center, the port of Klaipėda.



The banknote was issued in Kaunas on March 31, 1928; it went into circulation September 13, 1928; signatures: V. Jurgutis; J. Paknys, Julius Kaupas, Z. Starkus, P. Grajauskas. The series and numbers were placed on the obverse, below at left, above at right.



[Serial letters A, B. Specimens: a) Bradbury & Wilkinson seal, b) overprinted with red PAVYZDYS and perforated with PAVYZDYS, uniface]

P. Grajauskas.  
year, on November 16th; signatories: V. Jurgutis, J. Paknys, Julius Kaupas, Z. Starkus, The banknote was issued March 31, 1928 in Kaunas; it went into circulation that same  
Latvia streets (costing 7 million lites).  
sumptuous building of the Bank of Lithuania, in Kaunas, at the corner of Maironis-Duone-  
who was earlier, the Duke of Trakai and Zemaitija [Samogitia]). On the reverse, the new,